

Message Text

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13
ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T CAIRO 375

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR EG IS MARE
SUBJECT: KILOMETER 101 DISENGAGEMENT TALKS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. WHILE SITTING WITH UNDERSECRETARY LOUTFI LATE LAST EVENING WAITING FOR A DOCUMENT TO BE TYPED, HE COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT SOME DIFFICULTIES HAD DEVELOPED AT YESTERDAY'S KILOMETER 101 SESSION.

2. ONE PROBLEM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THAT ISRAELI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE SOUGHT TO DESIGNATE MILITARY SEPARATION LINES AS DEMARKATION LINES, WHILE EGYPTIAN INSISTED THESE WOULD BE CALLED DEPLOYMENT LINES. ISSUE REMAINED UNRESOLVED AND WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED AT TODAY'S SESSION WHICH CHIEF OF STAFF GAMASY WILL ATTEND.
LOUTFI SAID HE HAD BEEN WITH GAMASY EARLIER IN THE DAY TO SUGGEST POSSIBLE COMPROMISE FORMULATION, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.

3. A SECOND PROBLEM HAD BEEN ISRAELI DEMAND THAT TWO EGYPTIAN SAM SITES ON EAST BANK OF CANAL AT WHICH REVETMENTS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION BE REMOVED. THIS ISSUE HAD ALSO BEEN HELD OVER TO TODAY'S SESSION. GAMASY, ACCORDING TO LOUTFI, OPPOSES REMOVAL BUT BELIEVES ALL

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WORK SHOULD BE STOPPED AND REVETMENTS SHOULD BE LEFT IN PLACE. LOUTFI SAYS HE POINTED OUT TO GAMASY THAT REMOVAL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TEXT OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW GAMASY WILL HANDLE MATTER AT TODAY'S

SESSION.

4. LOUTFI CONFIDED THAT GAMASY IS EXTREMELY DISTURBED ABOUT THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE VIEWS IT AS SERIOUSLY LESSENING EGYPTIAN CAPABILITY TO DEFEND AGAINST POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT LIKELY ADVERSE ARMY REACTION WHEN DETAILS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BECOME KNOWN. UP TO NOW EVEN SENIOR EGYPTIAN ARMY COMMANDERS HAVE ONLY BEEN TOLD IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. THEY WILL NOT LEARN DETAILS UNTIL REDEPLOYMENT IS ACTUALLY ORDERED IN NEXT FEW DAYS. GAMASY KNOWS THAT HE WILL THEN BE SUBJECT TO BITTER CRITICISM IN MILITARY CIRCLES FOR HAVING AGREED TO AND SIGNED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. LOUTFI ADDED THAT HE, AS A FORMER SOLDIER, SHARES GAMASY'S CONCERN, BUT WAS CONFIDENT GAMASY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT SADAT'S ORDERS.

5. COMMENT: IN ADDITION ARMY LEADERS, LARGE SECTOR OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE HAS NOT BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON DETAILS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, EGPC OFFICIALS SEEM TO EXPECT THAT ABU RUDAYS OIL FIELDS ARE INCLUDED IN PRESENT DISENGAGEMENT (CAIRO 333). THERE WILL DOUBTLESS BE WIDER CRITICISM OF SADAT FOR HAVING ACCEPTED IT WHEN DETAILS BECOME KNOWN. CONTINUING SKEPTICISM ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON PART OK HEYKAL, WHO WAS BRIEFED ON DETAILS, CERTAINLY REFLECTS HIS REALIZATION THAT SHARPER CRITICISM OF AGREEMENT AND SADAT MAY BE EXPECTED IN MANY QUARTERS HERE. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, ALL INDICATIONS CONTINUE POINT TO SADAT'S BEING ABLE TO MANAGE HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEM.

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